

## Feedback from DBC

### Relocation of Department

Members were previously informed that the employer is looking for an alternative building for its Head Office, as the current building is not conducive. The employer reported that the process to move to the new building in the CSIR complex is at an advance stage and that the Minister has signed off on the relocation process. Parties agreed to establish a task team to steer the relocation process and to look at its impact on members individually.

The Free State region also requested to move to a new building. The employer reported that they have requested deviation from National Treasury in order to source their own building and only involve Public Works once they have sourced a suitable building. National Treasury was yet to respond, and the employer will report to labour once they have received the feedback. The employer also indicated that Basic Education will not renew the lease, and this might bring an opportunity for the employer to take over the lease. These options are currently under discussion and feedback will be provided soon.

### COVID-19 and Occupational Health and Safety

The employer indicated that the Department still functions as if it was on lockdown level 5. Only 33% of staff are required to report daily and the employer has implemented a rotation system. Most staff are equipped to function from home, and this will further be strengthened in the coming weeks as more laptops are being purchased. The employer also issued staff with 10GB of data to ensure they can access systems whilst working remotely. The employer emphasized that those employees who have children should be prioritised to work remotely whilst schools and day care centres are still closed. The employer reported that the deep cleaning/ sanitising of the building still needs to take place and a further report will be provided in due course. The employer agreed not to request all staff to return, until such time that the building was sanitised.

### Improved Qualification

Members were previously informed that the list of improved qualifications was sent to the DPSA for concurrence and the list was approved. The employer further reported that a memo is en route for approval for the payment of 68 employees who qualify for this payment. The employer will be able to provide further feedback at the next meeting.

## Parking

The PSA raised a concern with the employer that Department of Basic Education (DBE) amended their parking policy, which resulted in all parking bays for DHET members being removed. Members can only make use of external parking bays and all members must reapply for a parking bay. PSA requested that the employer engage with DBE in this regard to maintain the status quo until the Department move out of the building. The employer agreed and will provide a written report after they have engaged with DBE. The PSA also represents members in the DBE DBC and placed the matter with DBE too. DBE agreed to investigate the matter and provide feedback soon.

Members will be kept up to date with any developments in this regard.

GENERAL MANAGER